THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 30th June 1952.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at four of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Constitution of the Public Health Engineering Department.

* 5 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Public Health Engineering Department is now treated as a branch of the Public Works Department;

(*b*) whether the Highways Department has been constituted into a separate Department recently;

(*c*) whether the water-supply and drainage committee appointed by the Madras Government recommended that the Public Health Engineering Branch should be constituted into a separate Department with a view to speedy and efficient execution of water and drainage works; and

(*d*) what action has been taken by the Government to implement the scheme recommended by the Water-Supply and Drainage Committee?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*b*) The Highways Department was constituted into a separate Department on 1st April 1946.

"(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*d*) The Sanitary Engineering Department has been reorganized into an independent unit as a preliminary to the formation of a separate Public Health Engineering Department. The work of execution of water-supply and drainage schemes has been transferred from the Public Works Branch to the Sanitary Engineering Branch. The Sanitary Engineer, however, continues to be under the general control of the Chief Engineer (Public Health)."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR.—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any proposal to up-grade the post of Sanitary Engineer as Chief Engineer, Public Health?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, when the scheme recommended by the Water-Supply and Drainage Committee will be implemented? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That will take some time, Sir."

The State Transport Scheme.

* 6 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Government buses now running under the State Transport Scheme;

(*b*) the amount of annual savings to the State since the inception of the scheme; and

(*c*) the steps taken to further nationalization of Bus Transport System by extension of the same to adjoining district centres radiating from the Madras City?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) There are in all 339 buses in the State Transport Department, of which 285 buses are normally scheduled to ply on the road in each shift.

" (*b*) A statement [a] furnishing the information required is laid on the table of the House.

" (*c*) The Government have deferred for the present the question of extension of the scheme of nationalization of Motor Transport outside the Madras City."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is a proposal to increase the number of buses in the City? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" There is a proposal to replace some of the buses which have become old and rickety. But at present there is no proposal to increase the number of buses."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to relieve the congestion of traffic during peak hours? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I would like to inform the hon. Member that during peak hours we run shuttle services which, to a great extent, have relieved the congestion in passenger traffic. If it is possible to put more buses on the road we may do it; but that means more congestion in bottlenecks near Central Station and Mount Road."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" With reference to the statement placed on the Table of the House, may

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 75 *infra*.